

Business

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Sil Seafood Renovates Historic Landmark

By NORLEY HALL
Herald Correspondent

It used to be that someone trying to orient by locations in Provo would begin by saying something like, "Do you know where the old L.D.S. Tabernacle is?" Later it might have been, "You know where the Excelsior Hotel is don't you?" Now the description is just as liable to be, "You know where Sil's Ivy Tower is don't you?"

While the building itself has long been a cherished landmark in Provo as the old Rivergrove L.D.S. Chapel (1903-1977), and while Sil's restaurants have been part of the city for 20 years, the combination of a Sil's Restaurant into a completely remodeled church building is not only new, but destined to be an unparalleled local landmark.

While preserving the natural grace and beauty of the building, Sil and Wanda Hathaway have managed to work in an atmosphere of elegance, an air of unusual dining adventure and authentic antique decor worthy of a museum. Those who have dined in other Sil's establishments will be happy to know that the cuisine is still fit for the most discerning connoisseur and is still filling enough to suit a lumberjack's robust appetite.

Sil and Wanda Hathaway bring a lifetime of experience and a remarkable ability in the restaurant trade to the new location. They first joined forces 25 years ago when Sil was a cook and Wanda a waitress for By's Seafood Grotto, near the Ironton hill in southeastern Provo. Wanda's ability as a waitress was apparent as she served as many as 20 patrons from complicated menus without taking any notes.

She reports that her daughters have the same knack.

Sil was an apt student in the art of sea food cookery and it was only natural that they would marry.

In 1974 they tried their first restaurant venture by purchasing



Sil's is housed in an imposing landmark on 500 West.

Even after purchasing the building in 1979, it took five years to bring that dream into fruition. While the figures weren't given, it is obvious that this is a multi-million dollar undertaking. Most of the five year waiting period was necessary to obtain funding, complete the renovation of the building, gather the artifacts, plan for the many level operation and to make all the loose ends meet.

That the planning was successful is attested to by the beautiful building, the efficiency manifest in the service, the unforgettable food, the more than adequate parking facilities and the tremendous decor.

In addition to the working portions of the building, a new apartment complex is being completed for Wanda and Sil in the upper floors of the building. An elevator has been installed as a very necessary item in both food and human transportation. There are still unused rooms waiting future development or serving as storage for the

from a very informal room with mounted game heads and horns and mining and million implements to a regally formal "High Tea" type setting.

e in the U.S. Melting Pot

cluding presentation of a yearly festival, publication of an ethnic heritage guide that is used in area schools and sponsorship of monthly educational and social meetings.

Council members now are immersing themselves in a special project they believe symbolizes their pride in their backgrounds — raising funds to restore the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

"It seemed really natural for the Ethnic Heritage Council to get involved," Rudo said, noting

that the statue represents the first glimpse of America for many immigrants, whose sons and daughters and grandchildren now belong to the council.

The fund-raising effort, called the Spirit of '86, will begin with a \$75-per-plate dinner, complete with ethnic entertainment and costumes, at the Seattle Westin Hotel Oct. 20.

Guest speaker will be Chrysler Corp. chairman Lee Iacocca, who directs the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. It

is one of the few statue fund-raisers nationwide that Iacocca has agreed to attend.

"So many groups are supporting it even though they have no relationship to it," Bard said of the statue, citing participation by Native Americans who were here long before immigrants arrived and black Americans whose ancestors were forced to come to the United States as slaves.

"The fact is, the Statue of Liberty can stand as a symbol for everyone," he said.

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The next 20 years resulted in a succession of successful cafes and eight children. Wanda developed a remarkable talent for Cafe management and Sil developed a seafood cuisine second to none.

Undertaking such an enormous and complicated project as the new restaurant would make most cafe managers throw up their hands in despair. Just the multiple dining areas and the kitchen comprise more than 20,000 square feet of area. Besides the tons of food to be ordered and prepared, there are at present 60 employees to keep track of. When the facility is completed this figure should be nearly 100 full-time workers.

When asked why they would try such a tremendous undertaking when they were already so well established, Wanda said, "Ever since we first saw the building, we have had a dream about making it into an exceptional restaurant."

No story on Sil's would be complete without mentioning the authentic antiques that grace every wall, countertop and entryway. Gathered from all over the nation, they attest to the knowledge and diligence of both Sil and Wanda as antique authorities.

Some museums have much less to offer than the items the Ivy Towers uses for decoration. Even without the food, a trip to Sil's would be worth the trouble.

No matter the customer's tastes in atmosphere, he should find something at Sil's to please them. There is casual dining in the Stone Cellar, an outdoor atmosphere in the garden room, informal dining and dancing in the gun collection room, large banquet catering and live entertainment in the huge Show Boat room, formal elegance is planned for the Ivy Tower room and a variety of styles in decor is available in four private party rooms.

These private rooms range



E.F. Hutton building at new location, 215 W. 100N.

Hutton Moves Downtown

E. F. Hutton decided to make its move—closer to downtown—at 215 W. 100 N. in Provo, just west of the Excelsior Hotel.

The move was the result of a number of things, says Jim Neilson, office manager at the Provo location. "We feel downtown Provo could be a financial district," he said. With the banks already there, there is potential to beef up the area with other financial service institutions.

In addition, the old E. F. Hutton location, at 450 N. University Ave., was much too small for the present staff and the anticipated growth of the area market. The firm has grown from eight account executives to 18 in the last two years, and Nielson expects they will fill the building to ca-

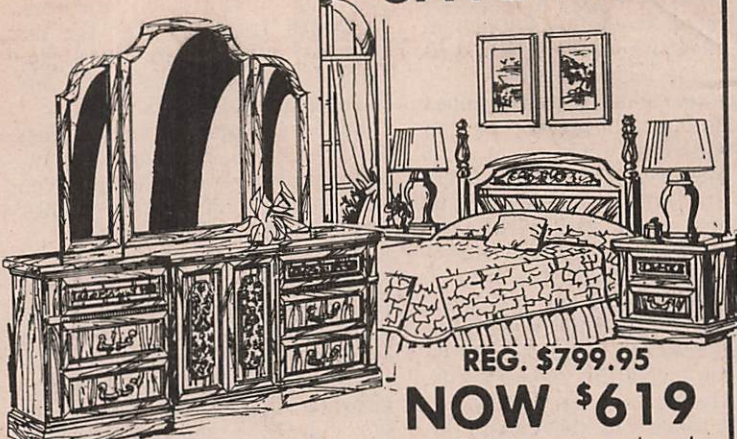
capacity— 25 executives—in the next two years.

The black glass building with the gigantic windows does not try to compete with the restored look of the downtown area. Nielson said the building, an old grocery store and then a furniture store, did not have many architectural possibilities. But the inside is decisively traditional. The thick carpet is pewter blue and the desks are all mahogany.

Neilson says because the offices are so nice and close to hotel and conference facilities, they haven't had to go to Salt Lake once for special meetings and seminars—now Salt Lake comes here.

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